



# a·H·Informer

A news update from Adirondack Health Institute

May 17, 2023

## *News Headlines*

### **Attorney General James and Acting Department of Health Commissioner Dr. McDonald Issue Alert to Protect New Yorkers from Health Insurance Renewal Scams**

NEW YORK – New York Attorney General Letitia James and Acting Department of Health (DOH) Commissioner Dr. James McDonald today warned New Yorkers about a new scam targeting New Yorkers enrolled in public health insurance programs and provided important tips to protect consumers. For the first time since March 2020, people enrolled in Medicaid, Child Health Plus and the Essential Plan will have to renew their health insurance coverage. Attorney General James and Acting Commissioner Dr. McDonald are urging New Yorkers to be vigilant in light of reports of scammers deceptively calling people and asking them to pay hundreds of dollars to maintain their health insurance.

The federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 ended the continuous coverage requirements effective March 31, 2023. As a result, New York State has resumed the practice of reviewing and renewing eligibility for those enrolled in Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and the Essential Plan. Starting in mid-March, enrollees are being sent renewal notices well in advance of their coverage end dates with detailed instructions of how to stay covered and their deadline to take action. There have been reports of scammers taking advantage of this process and threatening New Yorkers that their Medicaid coverage is at risk for cancellation or that they have actually already lost their Medicaid benefits, unless they provide hundreds of dollars to reinstate or continue benefits. This is false, and New York agencies that administer Medicaid benefits will never charge or ask for money from consumers to enroll or re-enroll. New Yorkers are encouraged to visit the [New York State Department of Health](#) website or its [Medicaid information page](#) to learn how they can renew health insurance.

To read the full consumer alert, click [here](#).

*\*If you or someone you know needs assistance with insurance through the NY State of Health Marketplace, AHl can help! Our EASE (Enrollment Assistance Services and Education) program assists individuals, families and small business owners enroll in health insurance coverage through the NY State of Health Marketplace. We serve eight counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington. We don't charge and we're not an insurance company. We help you look at available insurance plans and find out if you're eligible for financial assistance. [Request an appointment online](#) or call toll-free, 1.866.872.3740, to make an appointment with a certified enrollment specialist.*

### **Clear the Air in the Southern Adirondacks participates in the Town of Corinth Clean-Up Day**

[Clear the Air in the Southern Adirondacks](#) (CASA) attended the Town of Corinth's **Clean-Up Day**, supported by the Healthy Corinth Coalition, at the Corinth Firehouse on April 22. The Coalition provided community members with garbage bags and a scavenger hunt to support the event.

Did you know that cigarette butts are the most littered item on earth? Worldwide, approximately 4.5 TRILLION cigarettes are littered each year. Cigarette butts are toxic, leaching chemicals such as arsenic and lead into the environment. Cigarette butts are also the cause of pollution when carried as runoff into drains, rivers, beaches, and oceans.

Knowing this, the CASA team and Reality Check youth leaders were at the Corinth Firehouse providing education on the impact of tobacco product marketing on youth, the harms of tobacco litter, as well as the opportunity to join the Reality Check program. The teams were successful in mobilizing community members to collect a large amount of tobacco litter and create a healthier environment in the Town of Corinth!

For more information on CASA, please e-mail [casa@ahihealth.org](mailto:casa@ahihealth.org).

## The Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York

Did you know? [The Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York, Inc.](#) is a non-profit organization committed to serving people with epilepsy in 22 counties of NENY including the Capital Region, North Country, and Upper Hudson Valley.

At the Epilepsy Foundation, one of their primary goals is to provide accessible, current information about epilepsy/seizure disorders to individuals with epilepsy, parents, family members and friends. They also provide information about epilepsy to professionals in the community through the in-service training programs. Services also include:

- Advocacy
- Counseling
- Educational Programs
- Support Groups
- Service Coordination & Case Management
- Medication Fund Assistance
- Camp Scholarships
- College Scholarships
- Funds to support travel outside the area to specialists
- Information and Referrals
- Art Therapy
- Kids Crew

\*Program availability varies by county. To check eligibility, please contact Sam Champagne at [schampagne@epilepsyneny.org](mailto:schampagne@epilepsyneny.org).

For more information or to get involved, contact The Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern NY by phone: 518.456.7501 or via email: [schampagne@epilepsyneny.org](mailto:schampagne@epilepsyneny.org).

A new edition of the **Family Services Association of Glens Falls, Inc.** newsletter is available.

Click [here](#) to read!

A new edition of the **Moreau Community Center** newsletter is available.

Click [here](#) to read!

## *Events*



## SEIZURE FIRST AID CERTIFICATION

EPILEPSY  
FOUNDATION

END EPILEPSY

### WHAT IS IT?

This Seizure Recognition and First Aid Training was developed by the Epilepsy Foundation. It contains information and activities on seizures, epilepsy, and seizure first aid. The first aid procedures reflect the standard of knowledge and current best practices.

### WHO CAN TAKE IT?

Adults can participate in the training program. It is available through instructor led live webinars.

### WHEN DOES IT TAKE PLACE?

Date: The first Wednesday of every month!

Time: 3:00PM-4:30PM

Registration link: <http://bit.ly/WebinarWedSFACert>

### HOW DO I GET CERTIFIED IN SEIZURE FIRST AID?

#### These are your next steps:

- Register for the training.
- Complete a quick pre-test. (The link will be sent with your registration confirmation email.)
- Participate in the live webinar.
- Take the post-test.

### HOW LONG IS THE CERTIFICATE VALID?

Participants who successfully complete the course will receive a **two-year certification** that can be renewed in the future!

### WHOM DO I CONTACT?

Name: Rachel Yattaw

[RYattaw@EpilepsyNENY.org](mailto:RYattaw@EpilepsyNENY.org) (518) 456-7501

Email and Phone Number:

May 3, 2023

June 7, 2023

July 5, 2023

August 2, 2023

September 6, 2023

October 4, 2023

November 1, 2023

December 6, 2023



# SAVE *the* DATE

Lake George, NY  
**SEPTEMBER**  
27-28, 2023

2023 NORTH COUNTRY  
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

*Enhancing Equitable  
Healthcare in Rural  
Communities*



Adirondack Health Institute



## *Other Information and Resources*

### Community Job Postings

**Comfort Food Community** is seeking a [Nutrition Education Coordinator](#) to lead their Food as Medicine Farmacy program, a partnership with Hudson Headwaters Health Network, as well as all nutrition education programming from classes & workshops to Healthy Meal Kits. CFC is also seeking an [Outreach Coordinator](#) to lead their Farmers' Market Produce Prescription Program, a partnership with CDPHP at the Glens Falls and Saratoga Springs Saturday Farmers Markets and will handle all incoming and outgoing referrals from food assistance to SDOH services.

**Community Connections of Franklin County** is seeking a **Peer Coordinator** to work in the emergency department at Adirondack Medical Center. For more information or to apply, please contact Lee Rivers at [lrivers@communityconnectionsfcny.org](mailto:lrivers@communityconnectionsfcny.org).

*If you are an organization that would like a link to your job posting(s) included in a future AHInformer, please send the information to us at [communications@ahihealth.org](mailto:communications@ahihealth.org).*

### Struggling to afford internet service?

Visit [AffordableConnectivity.gov](https://AffordableConnectivity.gov) to learn more about and apply for the Affordable Connectivity Program.

### Addiction and Mental Healthcare Access Assistance

AHI's **CHAMP (Community Health Access to Addiction and Mental Healthcare Project)** program assists individuals and their families with accessing substance use disorder and mental health treatment services. We can help by breaking down barriers to care, including provider network and other health insurance related issues. We serve nine counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, St. Lawrence, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington.

CHAMP is a FREE and CONFIDENTIAL service available to everyone, regardless of insurance coverage, including the uninsured.

Call us at 1.866.872.3740 or visit our [website](#) to for more information.

Information sessions can be scheduled, and materials made available upon request – contact us



for more details!

## Keep New York Covered

*Important Changes to New York Medicaid, Child Health Plus and the Essential Plan*

Do you or a family member currently have health insurance through New York State Medicaid, Child Health Plus, or the Essential Plan? New York State is resuming eligibility reviews and renewals for people enrolled in these programs. **This means you may need to take action to renew your health insurance or the insurance of your family members.**

AHI's EASE enrollment team can help! EASE provides FREE and CONFIDENTIAL service to everyone, regardless of insurance coverage, including the uninsured.

Call us at 1.866.872.3740 or visit our site at [ahihealth.org/knyc](http://ahihealth.org/knyc) for more information.

Information sessions can be scheduled, and materials made available upon request – contact us for more details!

## COVID-19 Resources

For links to various COVID-19 resources for community partners, please visit [AHI's website](#).

## Share Your Updates

AHI partners in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington counties are encouraged to send news items to [communications@ahihealth.org](mailto:communications@ahihealth.org) to be considered for inclusion in the AHInformer.

This edition and past issues of the newsletter are available at <https://ahihealth.org/ahi-news/ahinformer/>.

Adirondack Health Institute | 100 Glen Street, Suite 1A, Glens Falls, NY 12801  
518.480.0111 [communications@ahihealth.org](mailto:communications@ahihealth.org) | [www.ahihealth.org](http://www.ahihealth.org)

## STAY CONNECTED WITH US!



Adirondack Health Institute | 100 Glen Street, Suite 1A, Glens Falls, NY 12801

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